

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2962 - SB 3392

February 4, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Redefines “willfully failed to support” and “willfully failed to visit” pertaining to the definition of child abandonment within instances of adoption and foster care, to not apply to a person who has attempted to support or visit a child but was prevented by the acts of others or circumstances beyond such person’s control. A parent who is appealing a termination of parental rights is authorized to continue such appeal after the one year deadline. Requires the court to appoint an interpreter for parents of limited English proficiency.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant

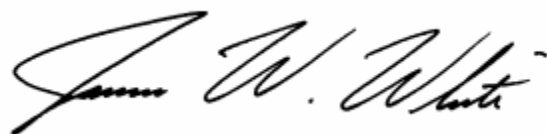
Other Fiscal Impact – Increase Federal Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- The provisions of the bill portray the current procedures that the Department of Children’s Services follows in the termination of parental rights. Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increase appropriation or reduced reversion.
- Supreme Court Rules currently require that interpreters be appointed for parents of limited English proficiency and that the Indigent Defense Fund bear the cost of the interpreter if such parent is indigent. There would not be a significant fiscal impact to state or local government court systems.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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